

For Immediate Release Friday, November 1, 2002

## IRONDEQUOIT BAY OUTLET BRIDGE IS REOPENED FOR VEHICLE CROSSING

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today announced that the Irondequoit Bay Outlet Bridge (IBOB) has reopened to vehicle traffic following the close of boating season. Doyle has been working with the Coast Guard to gain authorization for the November 1<sup>st</sup> opening and this is the first year the Coast Guard has granted approval.

"By opening the bridge to vehicle traffic one month earlier, we will provide area residents additional commuter convenience and also help promote the economic vitality of the restaurants and shops along the Seabreeze corridor," said Doyle. "The bridge will also provide additional public safety access to the area during the winter months."

On October 2, 2002, Monroe County received authorization from the United States Coast Guard to extend the dates the bridge will be open for vehicle traffic by an additional month (letter attached). Since its completion in the winter of 1998, the Irondequoit Bay Outlet Bridge has been open for vehicle traffic from December 1 through March 31. The bridge, which connects the Towns of Irondequoit and Webster, is designed to span the outlet for vehicular traffic during cold weather months and is removed during the boating season.

"Meeting the needs of boaters and providing public access to Irondequoit Bay during warm weather months is an important dynamic of the quality of life in Monroe County," added Doyle. "In the same manner, being able to re-establish the flow of traffic across the bay during the winter is a big advantage of the swing bridge."

The bridge will remain open to traffic for five months and is scheduled to close on April 1, 2003.

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For further information, call: Communications at 428-2380 See us on the web at www.monroecounty.gov